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I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement issued on 17 February 2001 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus in connection with the air strikes carried out by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against targets to the south-west of Baghdad (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Sergei Ling**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 19 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus expresses its deep concern at the air strikes carried out by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against targets to the south-west of Baghdad.

The Republic of Belarus reaffirms its unwavering position that the use of force in contravention of United Nations Security Council resolutions is inadmissible, and condemns the practice of perpetrating military attacks against Iraq.

Such actions represent flagrant violations of international law and undermine the system established in the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. These acts merely exacerbate the situation, both in the region and at the global level.

The Republic of Belarus believes it is necessary to make full use of the potential of the United Nations Security Council to prevent and resolve conflict situations by peaceful means.

17 February 2001
